



# The Police Corps

**T**he Police Corps is designed to address violent crime by helping state and local law enforcement agencies increase the number of officers with advanced education and training assigned to community patrol. The pro-gram, which operates within states that have submitted an approved state plan, is designed to motivate highly qualified young people to serve as police officers and sheriffs' deputies in the municipalities, counties and states that need them most. It does this by offering Federal scholarships on a competitive basis to college students who agree to serve where needed on community patrol for at least four years. Participants who seek baccalaureate degrees begin their work as officers shortly after graduation from college. Those who pursue graduate study complete their service in advance.

The Police Corps reduces local costs of hiring and training excellent new officers. The Federal government pays for rigorous law enforcement training for each Police Corps participant.

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## **The Police Corps offers incentives for a diverse pool of highly qualified men and women to enter policing**

Students accepted into the Police Corps receive up to \$3,750 a year to cover the expenses of study toward a baccalaureate or graduate degree. Allowable educational expenses for full-time students include reasonable room and board. A student may receive up to \$15,000 under the program. To be eligible for the Police Corps, a student must attend (or be about to attend) an accredited public or non-profit four-year college or university. Undergraduate participants must attend full time. Participants may choose to study criminal justice and law enforcement or may pursue degrees in other fields. Men and women of all races and ethnic backgrounds are eligible, regardless of family income or resources. Students who attend community college are eligible once they are accepted to a four-year institution.

All Police Corps participants must possess the necessary mental and physical capabilities and moral characteristics to be an effective officer, meet the admission standards of the state Police Corps, meet the hiring standards of the law enforcement agency with which they will serve, and demonstrate sincere motivation and dedication to law enforcement and public service.

Students interested in the Police Corps apply to the "lead agency" of the participating state in which they wish to serve. Applications are then evaluated on a fully competitive basis according to defined admission criteria. No exceptions from the competitive standards are permitted. States with Police Corps programs are expected to advertise the availability of scholarships to the full range of prospective participants and to make special efforts to encourage applications from members of all racial, ethnic and gender groups.

## **Participants complete a rigorous 16 to 24 week residential Police Corps training program**

All Police Corps participants must satisfactorily complete a rigorous 16 to 24 week residential Police Corps training program. Paid for by the Federal government, this basic law enforcement training is intended to teach the knowledge, skills and attitudes essential to serve effectively on community patrol, to develop the physical, moral and analytical capabilities of the participants, and to teach self-discipline and organizational loyalty. Police Corps training places special emphasis on leadership, integrity, effective communication, understanding of social context, problem solving in multi-cultural settings, and commitment to the principles embodied in the Constitution, including respect for the dignity of all people. All trainees must satisfy high performance standards for physical, mental and emotional fitness.

Training may take place at a state or regional facility approved to offer Police Corps training. The law enforcement agencies with which individual participants serve provide additional training as appropriate.

### **Police Corps participants serve where most needed**

Police Corps participants become members of police departments or sheriffs' offices in geographic areas that have a great need for additional officers and are expected to be deployed to challenging beats where they can be most effective. Each participant is tentatively assigned to an eligible law enforcement agency at the time he or she is accepted into the Police Corps. Except with the permission of the Director, no more than 25% of a state's participants may be assigned to state police agencies.

### **The Police Corps brings more officers into community patrol ("street" or "beat" patrol)**

All Police Corps officers must be placed on community patrol and ordinarily must serve all four years on community patrol. The program encourages states, where feasible, to arrange for participants to serve in areas of great need where they have community or family ties.

### **Participants have the same rights and responsibilities as other officers of the same rank and tenure**

Police Corps participants have all of the rights and responsibilities of — and are subject to all rules and regulations that apply to — other members of the law enforcement agencies with which they serve. Participants must meet all agency hiring standards. They must be compensated at the same rate of pay and receive the same benefits as other officers of the same rank and tenure.

### **State lead agencies work in cooperation with local agencies and organizations**

Throughout the program, each lead agency is expected to consult and coordinate with local law enforcement officials, rank and file officers, representatives of police and sheriff labor and management groups, and appropriate state and local agencies.

### **All educational assistance is contingent**

If a Police Corps participant fails to complete his or her bachelor's degree, Police Corps training, and four years of required service with the assigned agency, he or she must repay all scholarships and reimbursements received through the program, plus 10 percent interest.

### **Scholarships are available to dependent children of**

### **officers killed in the line of duty**

Once a state joins the Police Corps, dependent children of law enforcement officers subsequently killed in the line of duty are eligible for college scholarships. An eligible student may receive up to \$15,000 to cover educational expenses for study at any accredited institution of higher education. Dependent children incur no service or repayment obligation. The application process for eligible dependent children is non-competitive.



#### **For more information**

States interested in participating in the Police Corps may obtain guidelines for state plans, outreach, training and related information from the Office of the Police Corps and Law Enforcement Education, U.S. Department of Justice, 810 Seventh St. NW, Washington DC 20531.

Individuals and law enforcement agencies interested in participating in the Police Corps should contact the appropriate state lead agency. Information on participating states is available through the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1-800-421-6770 or the Office of the Police Corps at the address given above. Information also is available on the web at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/opclee> or by calling 1-888-94CORPS (1-888-942-6777).